

Miscellaneous notes

Quality attributes of cinnamon (*Cinnamomum verum* Bercht & Presl.) accessions grown at Shevroys (Tamil Nadu, India). R Richard Kennedy, K Nageswari & G Balakrishnamoorthy, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Horticultural Research Station, Yercaud - 636 602, Tamil Nadu, India.

The quality of bark and leaf of cinnamon (*Cinnamomum verum* Bercht & Presl.) is determined by their oil and oleoresin contents. The quality of cinnamon is known to vary depending on the region where they are grown (Pruthi 1979). Five accessions of cinnamon collected from Indian Institute of Spices Research, Calicut, are being maintained at Horticultural Research Station, Yercaud (Tamil Nadu, India) (1450 m < MSL). The quality parameters of these accessions were analysed and are reported here.

The accessions showed wide variations in their oil and oleoresin contents. Among the accessions, Sel. 44 and Sel. 189 had the highest leaf oil (4.1%) and bark oil (4.0%) contents, respectively. Sel. 53 and Sel. 63 recorded the highest oleoresin (16.0%) content (Table 1).

Table 1. Quality attributes of cinnamon accessions

Accession	Leaf oil (%)	Bark oil (%)	Bark oleoresin (%)
Sel. 44	4.1	2.0	14.1
Sel. 53	3.1	3.6	16.0
Sel. 63	4.0	3.5	16.0
Sel. 189	2.1	4.0	15.0
Sel. 203	0.7	1.7	15.0

Reference : Pruthi J S 1979 Spices and Condiments. National Book Trust, New Delhi.

Variability in ramba (*Pandanus amarylifolius* Roxb.) - a new leaf spice. R Richard Kennedy, K Nageswari & G Balakrishnamoorthy, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Horticultural Research Station, Yercaud - 636 602, Tamil Nadu, India.

The genus *Pandanus* (Pandaceae) has around 600 species of paleotropical shrubs found near sea coasts and marshy lands in India. The leaves of *Pandanus* spp. are used for making mats, bags, baskets, hats and fans. Ramba (*Pandanus amarylifolius* Roxb.) locally called as *briyani leaf* (in Tamil and Malayalam) is a new under exploited species valued for its spicy and musk scented leaves. Both young and mature leaves are used in cooking along with *briyani* or *basmathi* rice. The leaf attains a length of 150 cm and 8 cm width at full growth.

Two accessions of ramba were collected from Devicode, Kanyakumari District (Pa 1) and Shevroys (Pa 2) and evaluated for their performance at Horticultural Research Station, Yercaud (Tamil Nadu, India). The growth attributes of the two accessions exhibited significant differences for plant height, plant spread, number of harvestable leaves, leaf length and leaf breadth (Table 1). The accession Pa 1 exhibited significantly higher values for all the characters when compared to Pa 2.

Table 1. Growth attributes of ramba accessions

Accession	Plant height (cm)	Plant spread (cm)	No. of harvestable leaves	Leaf length (cm)	Leaf breadth (cm)
Pa 1	40.0	35.0	27.0	30.0	9.0
Pa 2	25.0	28.0	18.0	22.0	6.0
CD (P<0.05)	6.5	6.3	4.5	5.2	3.0